

'Scanlan's' Seized by Canada

By Karl E. Meyer

NEW YORK --Montreal police have seized 102,000 copies of Scanlan's magazine, an American publication whose January issue features a long article entitled "Guerrilla Warfare." The issue was printed in Canada after a number of American firms refused to handle it, allegedly because of protests by lithographers over its contents.

"They won't tell us anything," Sidney Zion, editor of Scanlan's, said today of the Canadian action. "They're trying to delay and delay and delay, so they can kill the issue. They can do it under the emergency powers laws."

In October Canada imposed temporary measures restricting civil liberties following the kidnapping of a provincial cabinet minister

and a British diplomat by Quebec separatists.

Immediately after the copies were seized last Saturday, Guy Toupin, assistant chief inspector of the Montreal police, told a radio interviewer that Canadian authorities were acting at the request of the U.S. government. But later, Toupin said he was misunderstood and that the Canadians were acting on their own.

In telephone interviews, spokesmen for the Justice Department and the Bureau of Customs denied that any request had come from Washington for the seizure. Acting Commissioner Edwin F. Rains of the Customs Bureau said he had personally looked at the issue and found no grounds for barring it from the country.

After learning of the Canadian action, Rains said, "I assured myself that none of my people had anything to do with this." Customs officials are empowered to bar publications containing obscene or treasonable expressions.

The Canadian action is the latest in a series of misadventures involving what was to have been the October issue of the muckraking monthly. Scanlan's troubles began in September when a New York printer, the Barnes Press, refused to publish the issue. The firm claimed the publication couldn't meet its financial terms but the magazine reported that refusal was because of union objections to contents of the issue.

The American Civil Liberties Union says it plans to take legal action against the printer, which Scanlan's is suing for \$1.3 million.

Eventually, after being refused elsewhere, a firm in St. John's, Quebec, undertook publication.

6,000 copies were shipped to San Francisco for distribution on the West Coast. Customs officials first cleared and then recalled the copies for review. Acting Commissioner Rains said that when he learned of the recall order he immediately countermanded it.

This was then followed by the Canadian action in seizing the balance of the copies. Montreal police have indicated privately that they were troubled by a diagram in the magazine showing how to build a bomb.

Zion confirmed that such issue, but that it is reproduced from an extremist magazine published in Boulder, Colo., by the Minuteman. He said the diagram was "crude" and that his purpose in publishing it was to show how leftwing militants get help and information from the opposite political extreme. Zion asserts that the issue in no way advocates guerrilla warfare but is simply intended to provide readers with facts.